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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT

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1. The peacetime T/O of the 38th Mecz Regt was listed as approximately 1,500 officers and EM. [redacted] in April 1952, the actual strength was then 1,020 officers and EM, as all sub-units were understrength. While the T/O [redacted] called for a peacetime strength of 300-350 EM, only 200-225 EM were actually present. Many personnel were assigned to the battalion on paper but were on duty with other units, i.e., attending schools performing guard duty, etc. Officer strength was listed at 37. but only 12 officers were actually present in the battalion. [redacted]

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2. Every company [redacted] had two Walther 27 mm signal pistols. The standard Czech Army pistols were the 9 mm 'Parabola' (Parabellum) and the P-38, but officers could select their own sidearms. Many officers used the 6.37 mm. CZ pistol although the German 9 mm (Parabellum) was widely used.
3. Some 7.92 mm rifles, the Czech "98" model, were marked with the Czech lion crest. [redacted] the only marking on Czech weapons. Each company [redacted] had three German M-43, semi-automatic rifles, with telescopes for sniper use.

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This weapon was also used by other Czech infantry units for sniping purposes. [redacted] rifles in use by the Czechs [redacted] the 7.92 mm bolt action, and the German MO43 semi-automatic models.

4. The caliber 7.92 mm Czech model "37" HMG had a mount which weighed 27 kg, while the gun itself weighed 19 kg. The mount was a tripod with two legs in the rear; it had a traversing scale of 180 degrees, a telescoping pintle with a 75 to 80 degree elevation adjustment for anti-aircraft firing, and about a 45 degree adjustment for ground use which could be extended for AA use. The shoulder stock attachment was for AA use only and each gun came with a spare barrel. The gun had both slow and rapid rates of fire. The rapid rate of fire was 350 rounds per minute and the slow rate was 75 rounds. The metallic belt used with the M-37 had a 350 round capacity. The model 37 HMG rear sight was of the folding leaf open type with elevation and windage adjustments. The scope sight with the rubber eye cup and the graduated reticule was used for AA fire. The sight was detached and carried separately when not in use.
5. Some M-26 Brno LMGs were carried in [redacted] tanks. These were not mounted on the tanks but were used only as supplementary weapons and in AA defense. [redacted] the M-26 was the only LMG in the Czech Army. [redacted]

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[redacted] the MGs mounted in that vehicle were the 7.92 mm model. [redacted] Czech 7.92 mm ammunition could be used in the MGs on Cromwells.

6. [redacted] Model "27" sub-machineguns that were received by the 38th Mecz Regt in either January or February 1952. [redacted] that the gun had a wooden stock and closely resembled the caliber 9 mm "23" model, but that the M-27 was of a different caliber. [redacted]

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[redacted] The new weapons were kept in the regimental arms room. [redacted]

7. A new Czech panzerfaust called "Panzerovka" has recently come into use by the Czech army [redacted] its effective range is 400 m. This weapon could be fired four to five times without reloading, while the German model could only be fired once on each loading. The weapon had a pistol grip beneath the tube and was fired by pulling the trigger. The rear sight on the top of the tube was graduated for distances up to 400 m. The tube was about 90 cm long, five cm in diameter and had a smooth bore. The wall thickness of the tube was three to four mm. [redacted]

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[redacted] A rifle type cartridge similar to a blank with a blue colored, wooden bullet was inserted into the opening in the bottom of the pistol grip. When fired, the cartridge sets off the main powder charge in the tube. The projectile had stabilizing fins in the rear which were of the folding type, and these expanded upon the projectile's leaving the tube. The German panzerfausts were in wider use than the "Panzerovkas".

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8. The German bazooka (Tarasnice) was also used by the Czech army [redacted]

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[redacted] It was about two m long, 10 cm in diameter, had a smooth bore; the tube walls were about three mm thick. The pistol grip and the trigger were at the bottom of the tube, and the carrying handle was on top. At the front and at the rear of the tube there was a wire mesh [redacted]

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The weapon was electrically fired. The projectile was about 45 cm long

The "Tarasnice" was to be replaced by a Czech CZ "Tarasnice" of an improved type, with steel wheels and rubber tires.

the tube was about 1½ m long and the weight of the weapon would be in the neighborhood of 50 kg. the weapon was to replace 45 mm AT guns. New

Tarasnice companies were to be formed

the projectile operated on the hollow charge principle

this weapon had a range of four km. The weapon was kept in the regimental arms room and at that time had not been issued to the troops. 50X1-HUM

9.

The T-34 offensive hand grenade used by the Czech Army was made in the Skoda plant in Pilsen. The metal wire wrapped around the middle of the grenade unwrapped in flight and it did not matter how the grenade was thrown in order to arm it. The body of the grenade was of black bakelite.

it had a TNT filler. It was about 90 mm long and 50 mm in diameter. The lethal radius was about five m. 50X1-HUM

10.

The type 21 Czech defensive hand grenade was egg shaped, with walls about 1½ cm thick, a serrated exterior surface, a cast iron body; it was black. Its diameter was about eight cm and unscrewed before the grenade was hurled in such a manner as to rotate it on its short axis. The danger zone extended for 50 m from the point of explosion. The grenade had a TNT filler. information on its inner

mechanism: there were two firing pins along the long axis of the grenade with a safety disc between the two; one igniter had a spring at one end of the grenade, and the other igniter had a spring at the other end; when the grenade was hurled the safety disc moved out of the way of the firing pins which struck the igniters. Both the T-34 and the Type 21 were standard grenades in the Czech Army. 50X1-HUM

11.

There were two AT companies in the 38th Mecz Regt, each equipped with two Soviet 45 mm AT guns. There were 12 Soviet 76 mm M-42 guns in the regiment which were used for field and AT work.

unloading of a howitzer (105 mm) regiment of the 5th Mecz Div in the maneuver area.

there were 48 of them for each regiment.

corps had artillery up to 152 mm in caliber and army up to 250 mm.

12.

former German 81 mm mortars which had been rebored to 82 mm size so that Soviet ammunition could be utilized. There were 12 of these in the 38th Mecz Regt and about 30 Soviet mortars in the 5th Mecz Div. German 50 mm mortars were used for training in the NCO school in Beroun. 50X1-HUM

13.

a new CZ Czech medium tank was to be produced in 1952. The new tank was to be armed with a 120 mm gun;

The 5th Mecz Div had no Soviet tanks but

many Soviet T-34 tanks were seen in Czech units.

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14. The 5th Mecz Div had one battalion of Soviet 132 mm rocket launchers, mounted on six by six trucks. 50X1-HUM

15. Each battalion in the 38th Mecz Regt was assigned a Jeep for the battalion commander's use, and one 1½ ton truck for use as a wrecker. Since my battalion was motorized it was authorized a total of 32 vehicles as follows:

1 Jeep

1 Truck, 1½ ton

8 Trucks, 1½ ton, Irena type, "150" (Czech), 15 man capacity

22 Trucks, 3 ton, Tatra "27", diesel, 1950 model (Czech), 50X1-HUM capacity 27 men.

16. The 1st Mecz Bn of the 38th Mecz Regt was equipped with 32 German 50X1-HUM HAKI #7 halftracks. There were a few armored vehicles in the regiment which unit commanders used for short runs.

Communications

17. Soviet "A-7-A" radio which weighed approximately 50 pounds; it was carried by two men and had a seven to 14 km range. This radio was used for communications between battalion and regimental headquarters; a receiver and a transmitter were in one compact box. 50X1-HUM

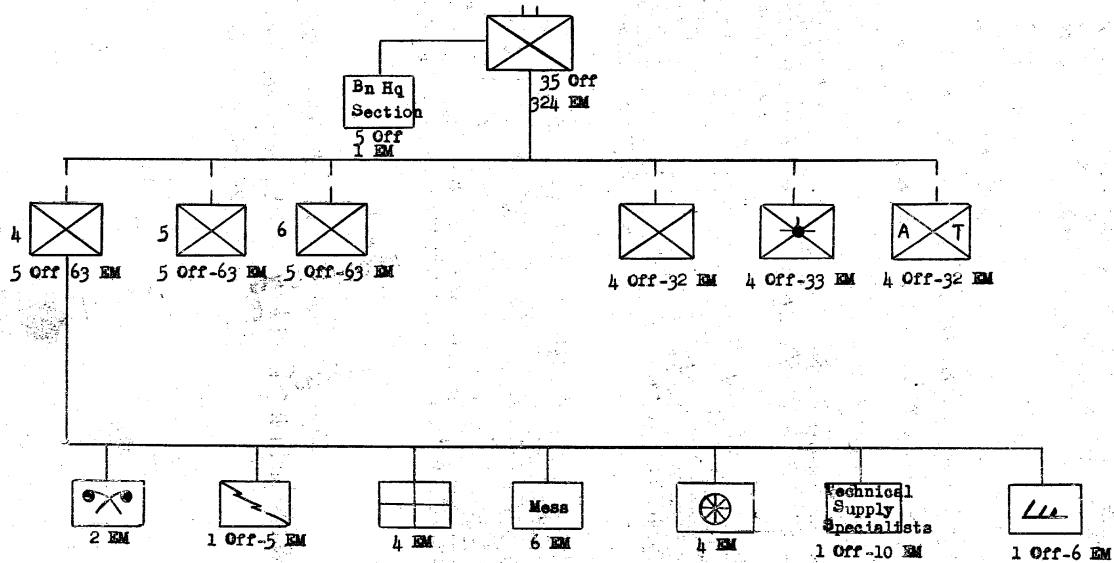
Each platoon was to have a walkie-talkie but none had been issued. 50X1-HUM

Enclosures: A. E/O & E of the 2d Mtz Bn, 38th Mecz Regiment
 B. E/O & E of Sub-units of the 2d Mtz Bn, 38th Mecz Regt
 C. E/O & E of the 38th Mecz Regt

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T/O of the 2d Mtz Bn, 38th Mecz Regiment



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ENCLOSURE (A)

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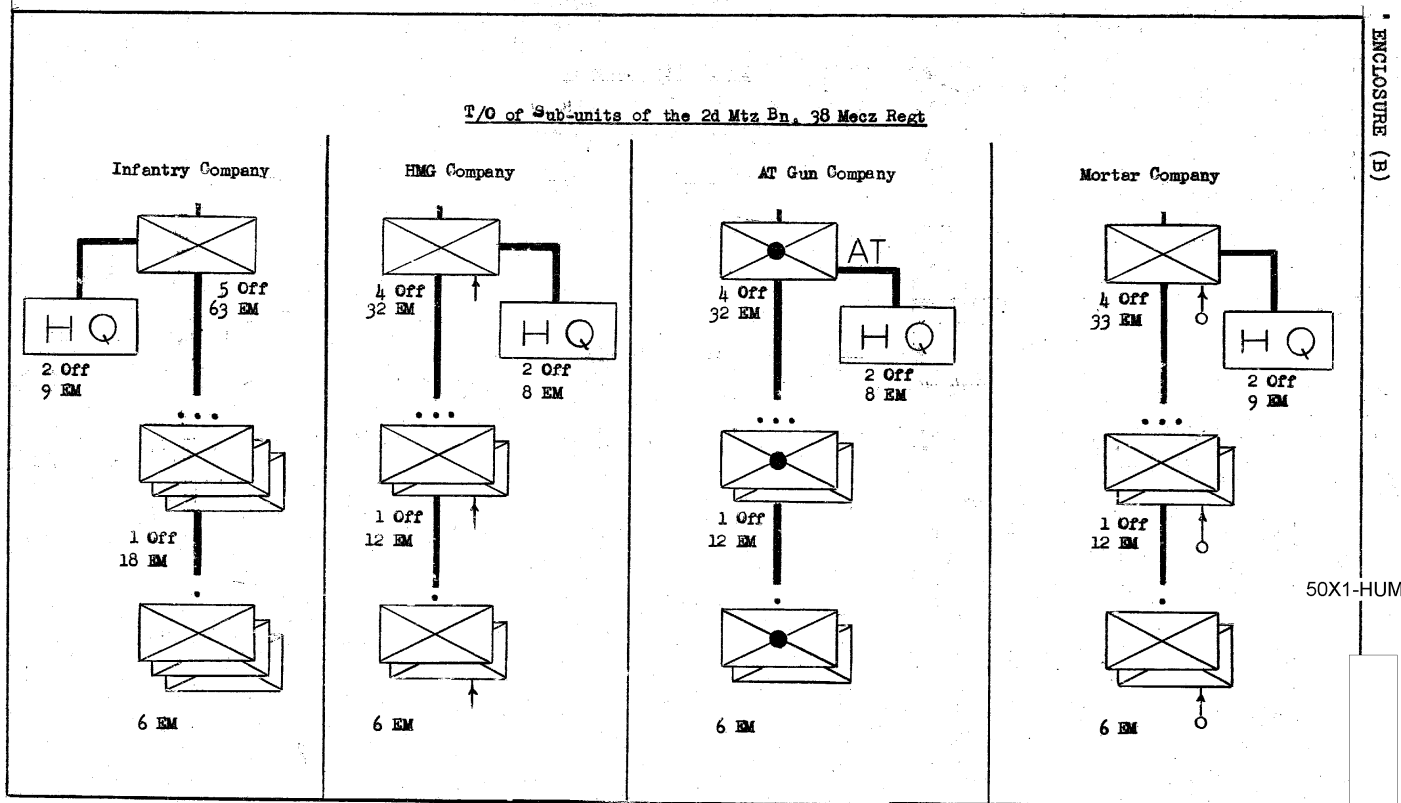
T/E of the 2d Mtz Bn of the 38th Mecz RegtT/E of the 2d Mtz Bn

6 Mortars, caliber 81-mm, German models rebored to Soviet 82-mm
 4 AT guns, caliber 45-mm, Soviet model
 4 HMGs, caliber 7.92-mm, 37 model
 27 LMGs, caliber 7.92-mm, 26 model
 197 SMGs, caliber 9.02-mm, 23 model
 15 Panzerfausts, (new Czech model, type and caliber unknown)
 73 Rifles, caliber 7.92-mm, 98 model
 83 Pistols, caliber 9-mm, German (Parabellum) model
 14 Flare pistols, German model
 6 Rifles, German sniper model
 2 Bazookas, (Tarasnice), New Czech model, caliber unknown
 35 Compasses, German model
 35 Field Glasses, Czech models
 2 Motorcycles, 250 cc, Jawa
 3 Bicycles, Czech model
 22 Trucks, 3 ton Tatra "27"
 8 Trucks, 1½ ton Irena "150"
 1 Wrecker, 1½ ton
 1 Jeep, ½ ton

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T/E of Sub-units of the 2d Mtz Bn**T/E of an Infantry Company**

- 9 Rifles, caliber 7.92-mm, Czech 98 model
- 9 LMG, caliber 7.92-mm, Czech 26 model
- 15 Pistols, caliber 9-mm, German (Parabellum) model
- 40 SMG, caliber 9-mm, Czech 23 model
- 3 Semi-automatic rifles with scope, German model
- 2 Flare pistols, German model
- 3 Panzerfausts, Czech model
- 4 3-ton Tatra "27" Czech trucks

T/E of a Heavy Machine Gun Company

- 4 HMGs, caliber 7.92-mm, Czech 37 model
- 16 Rifles, caliber 7.92-mm, Czech 98 model
- 13 Pistols, caliber 9-mm, German (Parabellum) model
- 7 SMGs, caliber 9-mm, Czech 23 model
- 2 AT bazookas, Czech model (type and caliber unknown)
- 2 Flare pistols, German model
- 4 Transport or armored cars

T/E of an AT Gun Company

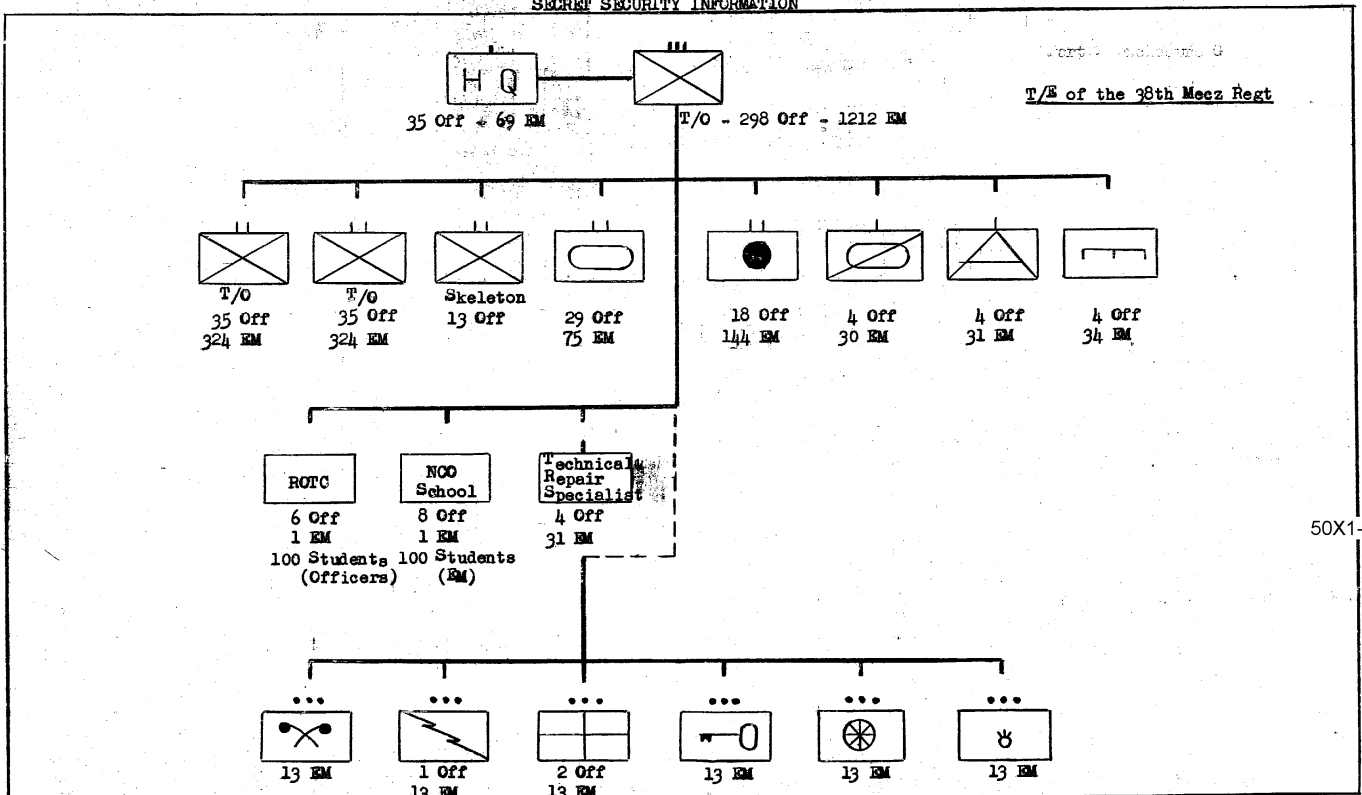
- 4 AT Guns, caliber 45-mm, Soviet model
- 31 SMGs, caliber 9-mm, Czech 23 model
- 5 Pistols, caliber 9-mm, German (Parabellum) model
- 2 Bazookas, Czech model (type and caliber unknown)
- 4 1½-ton trucks

T/E of a Mortar Company

- 6 Mortars, German 81-mm model rebored into Soviet 82-mm type
- 16 Rifles, caliber 7.92-mm, Czech 98 model
- 13 Pistols, caliber 9-mm, German (Parabellum) model
- 4 SMGs, caliber 9-mm, Czech 23 model
- 2 Flare pistols, German model
- 2 AT bazookas, new Czech model (type and caliber unknown)
- 5 Trucks or armored cars

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T/E of the 38th Mecz RegtT/E of 38th Mecz Regt

15 [redacted] Tanks
 1 Tank retriever [redacted]
 1 Armored car [redacted]
 12 - 76-mm Arty guns, Soviet model
 12 - 45-mm AT guns, Soviet model
 18 - 82-mm Mortars, originally German but rebored to Soviet 82-mm
 9 Mortars, caliber 50-mm, German model
 12 BMGs, caliber 7.92-mm, 37 model
 96 LMGs, caliber 7.92-mm, 26 model
 861 SMGs, caliber 9-mm, Czech "23" model
 4 AA MGs (type and caliber unknown)
 6 AT Bazookas, (new Czech model, type and caliber unknown)
 70 Panzerfausts, German model
 60 Flare pistols, German model
 220 Rifles, caliber 7.92-mm, 98 model
 409 Pistols, caliber 9-mm, German (Parabellum) model
 32 HAKI, armored half tracks
 8 Trucks, 1 1/2 ton Irena "150"
 22 Trucks, 3 ton Tatra "27"
 3 Wreckers, 1 1/2 ton [redacted]
 3 Jeeps [redacted]
 105 Compasses, German model
 105 Field Glasses, German model
 33 Motorcycles, 250 cm Jawa
 18 Rifles, Sniper, German model
 15 Bicycles, Czech model

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